

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

The only choice I have for local programming is through our one cable company which is limited in its selection on Kauai. I believe that competition in the market place is good, and especially necessary in Hawaii.

As regards to DSL - Broadband internet service: this is becoming a necessary service so that those of us with small business and can continue to effectively and efficiently promote Hawaii and the tourist industry that our livelihood depends on. At this time Verizon Hawaii has no target date for upgrading our telephone lines to handle DSL here on the westside of Kauai. This merger will make it possible for me and many others to better compete in our individual markets with faster internet connections and e-commerce services.

Sincerely,

Elliott Challandes
PO Box 911
Hanapepe, HI 96766